

The e-mail below and the attached letter were sent by the registrant to congressional staff and Members of Congress on behalf of the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz.

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From: Phillips, Steven <Steven.Phillips@us.dlapiper.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:43 PM
Cc: Phillips, Steven <Steven.Phillips@us.dlapiper.com>
Subject: FW: letter from Minister in Rheinland Pfalz

As you know, we do some work with the German State of Rheinland Pfalz. And they are the sister State to S.C.

The delegation from the State usually comes to Washington for meetings in May but due to COVID-19 they could not make the trip this year.

The State is home to a number of US bases including:

- Ramstein Air Base, Spangdahlem Air Force Base, and the largest Army Logistics Operation in Kaiserslautern
- The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center; the new U.S. Medical Center now under construction, near Ramstein AFB
- The U.S. Army Post in Baumholder.

Minister Lewentz wanted to send this letter to the Congressman with an update of what they have been doing to help the US troops and their families during this challenging time. He also mentions some of the projects they have initiated to help during the pandemic and how they are going the extra mile to assist, support and protect the troops and the bases.

The Minister looks forward to maintaining the close relationships with the U.S. troops and hopes to see you again soon.

This letter was before the recent announcement about possible troop cuts. So we wanted to add a thanks for all of your support too.

Thanks

Steve Phillips
DLA Piper
Co-Chair, Federal Law & Policy
Washington, D.C.
Office: 202-799-4313

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Rheinland-Pfalz

MINISTERIUM DES INNERN
UND FÜR SPORT

Ministerium des Innern und für Sport Rheinland-Pfalz
Postfach 3280 | 55022 Mainz

DER MINISTER

The Honorable Joe Wilson
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
1436 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Schillerplatz 3-5
55116 Mainz
Telefon 06131 16-0
Telefax 06131 16-3595
Poststelle@mdi.rlp.de
www.mdi.rlp.de

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United States of America

Mein Aktenzeichen Ihr Schreiben vom Ansprechpartner/-in / E-Mail
1133-0005#2019/0004-
0301 382 Dr. Jörg Zorbach
Bitte immer angeben! Joerg.Zorbach@mdi.rlp.de

Telefon / Fax
06131 16-3482
06131 16-17 3482

US Military Families in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany - Continued Partnership in Challenging Times

Dear Congressman Wilson,

usually, I have the opportunity to visit Washington and meet with key policymakers like yourself, but the coronavirus has caused a delay in my visit. With this letter, I would hope to bridge this temporary gap and provide you an update on several important developments. I hope that we can talk soon and in person about the US military presence in our state.

As you may know, the German State of Rhineland-Palatinate is home to more than 50,000 US citizens - service members, their families, civilians, and contractors - serving at key US installations such as Ramstein AB (HQ USAFE), Kaiserslautern Military Community, Baumholder, Landstuhl (Regional Medical Center), Sembach and Spangdahlem AB.

So far, Germany has fared comparatively well regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the public and our health sector. Moreover, Rhineland-Palatinate is one of the German states with relatively moderate infection rates. The responsibility for the state's overall crisis management lies in my Ministry and is led by my Deputy, Deputy Minister of the Interior Randolph Stich. As part of this, we are paying close attention to the U.S families and troops.



We have faced this pandemic by closely collaborating with representatives of the US Forces in Rhineland-Palatinate and we conduct routine coordination calls. The new situation and its successful management depends on a quick exchange of information as well as coordinated action and cooperation wherever necessary. Therefore, it is reassuring that both our US partners and the Rhineland-Palatinate authorities have a longstanding excellent record of cooperative partnership.

We are also finding new ways of staying close to the US families living in our state during a time when "physical distancing" poses additional difficulties to German-American everyday contacts.

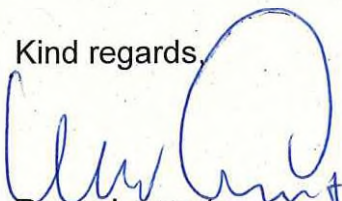
- We have expanded our online services in English for US families as part of our "Welcome to Rhineland-Palatinate!" Program.
- We offer quick translations of the changing Corona-regulations and guidelines that have become part of our everyday life.
- Also, we have facilitated and encouraged virtual German-American neighborhood initiatives, such as sewing face masks for a good cause in order to keep our American families integrated in their German communities of residence.

Our health care system is well prepared, and we have expanded intensive care capacities in case of a worsening of the situation in the future. The State Police force, which I oversee as Secretary of the Interior, is also well prepared to maintain public safety in these challenging times. They will also continue to have a very close eye on the safety of your fellow US citizens as well as on the US military facilities in our state. So, in combination with the excellent capabilities of the US Forces, your families benefit from an outstanding array of services to overcome this pandemic safely.

Despite the pandemic, we continue to cooperate closely and in a spirit of trust and good faith with the American partners and friends in our state.

Stay safe and healthy!

Kind regards,



Roger Lewentz